

Councilmen hail citizen group's housing project

By TEX NOVELLINO

Additional pledges of support for a citizen group's plan for developing new housing in Newark yesterday came from two members of the city council.

Council President Ralph Villani said the new non-profit corporation program for building homes for 15,000 persons was well conceived and should prove of "inestimable benefit" to the city.

The council president said, "I am wholeheartedly in back of the plan."

'POSITIVE' MEASURE

Councilman Calvin D. West also backed the movement in a telegram to the group which read:

"My sincere congratulations to your group upon the tremendous project which you are undertaking. This is indeed a positive measure and is long overdue in the city of Newark.

"Your non-profit corpora-

tion will benefit the citizens throughout Newark and the State of New Jersey.

"In my short term in office as a public official, I have asked that such a project be undertaken and I am delighted to see men and women who lived in this city and who fought for its problems and who are eager to see Newark rebuilt."

'POSITIVE' ACTION

The new group, which is composed of a cross section of civil rights and anti-poverty leaders, plans to finance the housing under the state's new Middle Income Housing Law.

George C. Richardson, former Essex County assemblyman and spokesman for the organization, said the basic purpose of the new group is to pursue a doctrine of "positive action" in providing moderate and low income housing. The group has not yet been named.

Newark Association Committee of Concern

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July 13, 1967

Abraham J. Isserman, Esq.
20 Branford Place
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Isserman:

Your memo to the Rev. Robert Johnson was most interesting. I suppose that in almost every phase of our fight to bring the Negro community and leaders to share in ventures for their own development, this kind of hanky-panky will prevail. It is good to know that there are some who are willing to fight for the inclusion of this segment of our society in the decision making processes in our society. It is good to know that there are persons like yourself devoting time and energy to these matters.

The memo gave me insights into you and your associates. My sincere thanks to you for just being you and for sharing the memo with me.

We are enclosing some recent newspaper articles concerning housing development in Newark and the memo.

Sincerely yours,

Buck

Ulysses B. Blakeley

UBB/phg
Enclosures

Housing Corporation Planned

Negro Unit Aims to Utilize New State Agency Funds

A group of 20 Negro leaders has formulated plans for a non-profit corporation initially aimed at providing "a complex of several thousand dwelling units to shelter about 15,000 people" in Newark. Construction financing would be sought from the state's Housing Finance Agency, which went into operation yesterday.

The group expects to incorporate "immediately," following a meeting on Thursday with Joel Sterns, deputy director of the state's Community Affairs Department, which is administering the New Jersey Housing Finance Agency Law of 1967.

That law provides for the state agency to make loans for housing for moderate income families. The agency will finance its loans through revenue bonds. Yesterday, Sterns estimated that the group will "probably make \$250 million in total commitments across the state during the first three years."

He also estimated that "3,000 dwelling units would cost about \$50 million dollars."

The Newark group is composed almost entirely of persons who opposed the establishment

of the New Jersey Medical College on the proposed site.

The group, which has not chosen a name for the proposed corporation, will use "people building for people" as its motto.

George C. Richardson, former state assemblyman and presently chairman of the United Freedom party, is heading the group.

Other members include attorney Irvin Booker; Rev. Horace Sharper, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and president of TO-SOULT, a Central Ward antipoverty group; Earl Harris, former Essex County freeholder; Harry Walker, a Newark school teacher and secretary for TO-SOULT; Earl C. Ward, Central Ward Democratic chairman; Walter Dawkins, executive director of the Blazer work training program; and Marion Kidd, chairman of the Newark Welfare Committee.

James Hooper, chairman of the Newark-Essex County chapter of CORE, is also listed as a member of the group. Hooper, however, was not present at the organizational meeting of the

group held yesterday at the Hotel Robert Treat.

Richardson said it was the group's objective "to channel our energies in a positive direction." Most of the groups represented led the fight against the proposed site of the medical college and the appointment of Callaghan.

"This was," he said, "basically a negative action. It is our hope that by bringing these groups together we can move in a positive direction."

In a prepared statement Richardson read, the group said:

"The problems of Newark are getting worse. The problems of minority group citizens trapped by their color in its decaying ghettos are desperate. Our people are despairing.

"Year after year . . . we have pleaded for decent housing. Our pleas have fallen on deaf ears . . . We are tired of pleading. We are tired of waiting. We shall act to build our own housing."

Plans call for construction of a variety of housing types, including small efficiency units especially designed for the elderly; large, airy units for families for smaller families.

lives with many children, and other apartments designed specifically for them.

The structures will range from two-family garden apartments to low-rise multi-family units, the group said.

Richardson also said the group hopes "to create jobs" as well as homes by staffing all buildings and recreation areas with "people from our community."

Walker inferred that the group would pay special attention to the medical school's proposed site. "We would like," he said, "to consider quite seriously part of that site for moderate low-income housing instead of allotting so many acres for the medical college."

The group's "basic and primary thrust will be in housing," Walker said, but will also move into related cultural and social areas as required.

Richardson said that "in the next five years, 50,000 to 75,000 persons will have to be relocated" in Newark because of construction of various highways and the new medical college.

"This is a genuine effort," he concluded, "to do something positive in Newark and save the Central Ward. We think it can be done."

Addonizio endorses citizen-planned housing

Newark Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio pledged the full support of his administration yesterday in implementing and expediting any program by citizen groups for development of new housing in the city.

The mayor's statement came a day after a new non-profit corporation announced it will build homes for 15,000 people.

"Participation by citizen groups in affirmative and constructive programs is essential to the rebuilding of the city," said Addonizio. "The City of Newark not only welcomes this new organization but encourages other citizen groups to do the same."

The organization, a cross section of civil rights and anti-poverty leaders, plans to finance the housing under the state's new Middle Income Housing Law.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

The mayor pointed out that in 1962 he submitted the original proposal for the law and that the bill, which was signed into law, was patterned after his proposal.

"My administration has helped the Rev. Wendell Mapson get federal funds to build his new Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and its housing program," said Addonizio.

Meanwhile, Joel Stern, assistant state commissioner in the Department of Community Affairs, said he planned to meet with the leaders of the new corporation in Newark tomorrow.

"We'll outline just what steps they'll have to undertake to qualify for the program," said Stern. "And we will provide technical assistance they may require."

Stern said his department also would invite the corporation to apply for projects.

'POSITIVE ACTION'

George C. Richardson, former Essex assemblyman and spokesman for the organization, said the basic purpose of the new group is to pursue a doctrine of "positive action" in pro-

plans to build a complex of several thousand dwelling units to shelter about 15,000 people as an initial step.

"Ultimately, we hope to change the face and future of Newark — to help create a new city built for people, all people; a city where people can live with dignity and peace and hope."

Harry Wheeler, Newark school teacher and secre-

tary to To-Sault, an agency created to obtain federal funds for housing, said this and other similar projects would also be financed by support from within the community.

"This is a genuine effort to do something in a positive vein for Newark," said Wheeler. "This is a positive program aimed at doing away with all the negativity."

Newark Association Committee of Concern

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December 14, 1967

Dear Abe:

Yours of December 6th was warmly received. Thank you for the reading material. I am in the process of digestion and I find it all quite interesting and informative.

Will see that such as you wish returned is so returned; however, would love to keep your report especially if this is possible. Also, any of the other material as you see fit.

Thanks for your comments on my article.

With kind regards,


ALFRED F. BROWN

PRESBYTERY OF NEWARK
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201-623-0235

TO: Abraham J. Isserman, Esq.

20 Branford Place

Date 7/10/67

Newark, New Jersey

FROM: Ulysses B. Blakeley

For your information

x For your file

Please read and return

Please read and toss out

Follow-up

Your advice needed

Conference desired

Please phone me

Urgent

No hurry, see me later